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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/792,008	03/03/2004	Klemens Degen	113642-050	4255
24573	7590	12/12/2007	EXAMINER	
BELL, BOYD & LLOYD, LLP			RODRIGUEZ, RUTH C	
P.O. Box 1135			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
CHICAGO, IL 60690			3677	
			MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
			12/12/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/792,008	DEGEN, KLEMENS
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Ruth C. Rodriguez	3677

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 20 September 2007.
 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1,3,4 and 6-16 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) 1,3,4,6-12 and 16 is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 13 and 15 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) 14 is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on 03 March 2004 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date: _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date: _____ | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 13 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rivera (US 6,389,625 B1) in view of Wolf et al. (US 5,791,210).

Rivera discloses a clamp comprising first and second clamping jaws (200), a first actuating section (44) connected to the first clamping jaw, a second actuating section (54) connected to the second clamping jaw and a hook (86) pivotally mounting to one of the first and second actuating section. The first and second clamping jaws extend in a first reference direction during use of the first and second clamping jaws (when the clamp is being used in a position similar to the one shown in Fig. 15). The first and second actuating sections extend in a second reference direction which is generally perpendicular to the first reference direction during use of the first and second clamping jaws (when the clamp is being used in a position similar to the one shown in Fig. 15).

The hook has pivoted-in position between inner sides of the actuating sections (hook has to be pivoted-in position between inner sides of the actuating sections when in the position shown in Figure 15). Rivera fails to disclose that the first and second jaws are biased toward each other. However, Wolf teaches a clamp (2) comprising first and second clamping jaws (6) biased towards each other by a spring 50), a first actuating section (4) connected to the first clamping jaw and a second actuating section (4) connected to the second clamping jaw. The first and second clamping jaws extend in a first reference direction (Figs. 1-22). The actuating sections have ribs that receive the ends of the spring to keep the spring in place. The spring allows clamping of a workpiece. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have the first and second jaws are biased toward each other as taught by Wolf in the clamp disclosed by Rivera. Doing so, allows hands-free clamping of a workpiece while working on the workpiece and keeping the spring in placed by providing ribs that receive the ends of the spring to keep the spring in place.

Rivera discloses a clamp comprising first and second clamping jaws (200), a first actuating section (44) connected to the first clamping jaw, a second actuating section (54) connected to the second clamping jaw and a hook (86) pivotally mounting to one of the second actuating section. The hook has a pivoted-in position between inner sides of the actuating sections and a use position pivoted away from the inner sides of the actuating sections and in the use position the hook has a first leg (121) extending away from the second actuating section and a second leg (body of 86) extending from the first leg towards the second actuating section forming a U-shape (Figs. 6 and 7). Rivera

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fails to disclose that the first and second jaws are biased toward each other. However, Wolf teaches a clamp (2) comprising first and second clamping jaws (6) biased towards each other by a spring 50), a first actuating section (4) connected to the first clamping jaw and a second actuating section (4) connected to the second clamping jaw. The first and second clamping jaws extend in a first reference direction (Figs. 1-22). The actuating sections have ribs that receive the ends of the spring to keep the spring in place. The spring allows clamping of a workpiece. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have the first and second jaws are biased toward each other as taught by Wolf in the clamp disclosed by Rivera. Doing so, allows hands-free clamping of a workpiece while working on the workpiece and keeping the spring in placed by providing ribs that receive the ends of the spring to keep the spring in place.

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claims 1, 3, 4, 6-12 and 16 are allowed.
4. Claim 14 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Response to Arguments

5. Applicant's arguments filed 20 September 2007 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.
6. Regarding claim 13, the Applicant argues that Rivera fails to disclose that first and second clamping jaws extend in a first reference direction during use of the first and second clamping jaws and that the first and second actuating sections extend in a second reference direction which is generally perpendicular to the first reference direction during use of the first and second clamping jaws. This argument fails to persuade because the claim does not contain any limitation that will restrict the in use position to coincide with the position where the actuating members are aligned with the jaws and the position shown in figure 15 meets the claims limitation and the clamp can still perform its clamping functions in this position.
7. For claim 15, the argument is that Rivera fails to disclose a hook having all the claimed features. This argument fails to persuade because the rejection has been revised to recite that claim 86 can be considered the hook and as cited above this hook meets the claim limitations.

Conclusion

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP

§ 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ruth C. Rodriguez whose telephone number is (571) 272-7070. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 07:15 - 15:45.

Submissions of your responses by facsimile transmission are encouraged. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273-8300.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (571) 272-6640.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR.

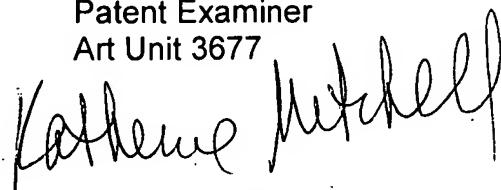
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Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only.

For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

/RCR/

Ruth C. Rodriguez
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 3677



Katherine Mitchell
Primary Examiner

rcr

December 10, 2007